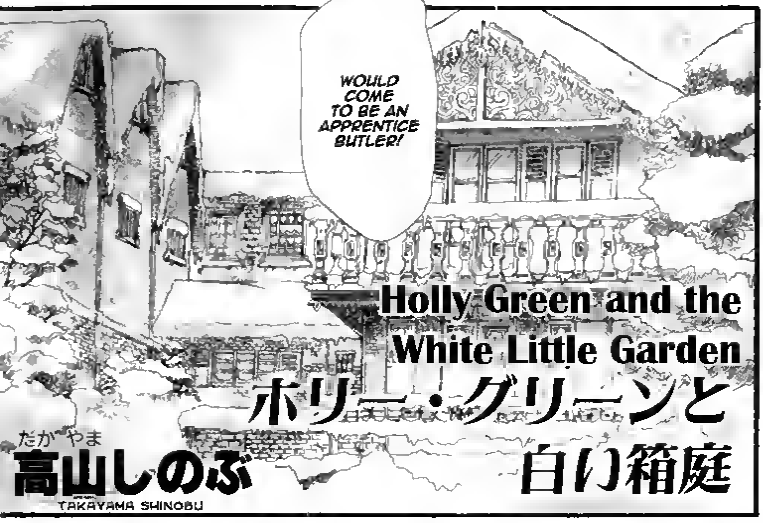
Hyper Parfait PRESENTS
Arcana
VOLUME 1- BUTLER
Holly Green and the White Little Garden
BY TAKAYAMA SHINOBU
READ, ENJOY, AND GO HYPER!

IT'S UNBELIEVABLE...
THAT SOMEONE WHO CAN'T EVEN WEAR HIS OWN CLOTHES PROPERLY...
YOU'VE DONE YOUR BUTTONS UP THE WRONG WAY...
YOUR HAIR IS A MESS.
YOU HAVEN'T DONE YOUR TIE UP PROPERLY EITHER!


WOULD COME TO BE AN APPRENTICE BUTLER!
Holly Green and the White Little Garden
ホリー・グリーンと白い箱庭
高山しのぶ
TAKAYAMA SHINOBU

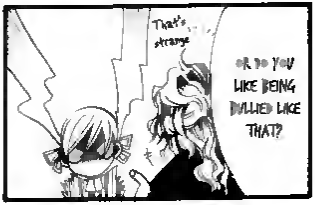
SORRY, I'M NOT USED TO WEARING THESE CLOTHES..
I WONDER WHAT YOU NORMALLY WEAR THEN..
WELL, NEVER MIND...
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THE ABILITY TO USE STANDARD SPEECH
YOU SEEM TO BE A TRAVELLER. WHY DO YOU WANT TO WORK HERE?
I'll keep watch.
You'll be sorry if you do anything strange!
WHY DID YOU COME THIS FAR NORTH?
MY BIRTHPLACE IS EVEN FURTHER NORTH THAN THIS
I WAS TRAVELLING SOUTH ON A SLEIGH
Look, I've got white hair and red eyes, like people from the north do
I DIDN'T COME FOR A SPECIFIC REASON
I GOT SEPARATED FROM MY FELLOW TRAVELLERS BY ACCIDENT
I WAS WONDERING IF I'D BE ABLE TO STAY HERE UNTIL THEY COME AND GET ME.
EVEN FURTHER NORTH...?
BUT YOU'RE SO GOOD AT THE STANDARD SPEECH..

DO YOU HATE NOBLES?
.....
TRAVELLING AS A HOBBY AND BECOMING AN APPRENTICE BUTLER WHILE YOU'RE AT IT? HOW CAREFREE YOU MUST BE...
I'M A COUNTRY PERSON.
I HATE THEM
BECAUSE..
YES
YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND THOUGH
YET YOU STILL WANT TO LEARN STANDARD SPEECH?
!
?
LONG AGO, I HAD TO LEARN MANY LANGUAGES AT HOME, SO I GOT BETTER EVEN IF THAT WASN'T WHAT I WANTED
SHOCK
YOU HAD THAT MANY HOME TUTORS?
ARE YOU A SON OF A NOBLE FAMILY OR SOMETHING?
THERE ARE A LOT OF SPECIALIST TERMS, BUT I'LL HIRE YOU IF YOU CAN READ IT.
YOUR JOB IS TO READ 5 NEWSPAPERS, INCLUDING THIS ONE, EVERY EVENING.
CAN YOU READ THIS?
Cupboard Fetish
Prosperity Symbol

THERE ARE DIRECTIVES UNRELATED TO ECONOMICS THAT ARE STRICTLY FORBIDDEN BY THE ECONOMIC STABILISATION BOARD.
OH? THIS ISN'T AN ECONOMIC NEWSPAPER...
IF YOU CAN'T READ IT, THEN YOU WON'T BE A BUTLER. YOU CAN LOOK AFTER THE HORSES OR SOMETHING INSTEAD.
THIS IS AN INTERESTING DISCOVERY!
Hmm
WELL, WELL
I THINK THEY'RE USELESS WITHOUT THE LAND OWNER'S JURISDICTION THOUGH
HOW ABOUT I GIVE AN EXPLANATION WITH MY OWN OPINION AFTER READING IN ALOUD?
SO.
THERE IS
They're twins
BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO USE THESE TO PRACTICE PRONUNCIATION, RIGHT?
YOU'RE HIRED

THEN EVEN A COUNTRY PRINCESS WON'T BE LAUGHED AT WHEN SHE GOES TO A CITY PARTY
IF I LOSE MY NORTHERN ACCENT,
IT'S EASY TO REMEMBER PRONUNCIATION ONCE YOUR EARS GET USED TO IT

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO THAT KIND OF PARTY...
A SLIGHT NORTHERN ACCENT
JUST THAT IS ENOUGH TO MAKE THE BEAUTIFUL NOBLES LAUGH

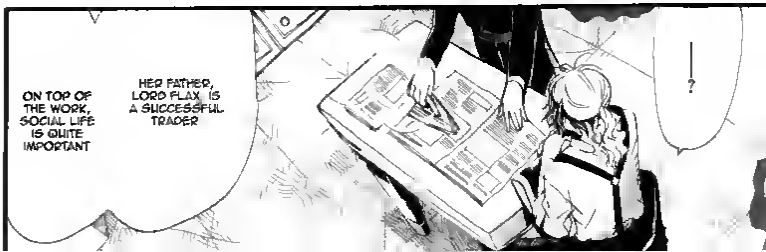

That's strange
OR DO YOU LIKE BEING BULLIED LIKE THAT?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, WALNUT?

WATCH HOW YOU TALK!

I'M IRONING THE NEWSPAPER SO THE INK DOESN'T RUB OFF.
MR. HOLLY GREEN
WAL. THE MISTRESS IS QUITE AN ODD PERSON
FOR SOMEONE HER AGE TO BE INTERESTED IN ECONOMICS..
I don't seem such a carefree person if I tie it up
JUST CALL ME HOLLY
Ah, your hair is very neat
THEN YOU CAN JUST CALL ME WAL

SHE WASN'T INTERESTED IN THOSE THINGS TO BEGIN WITH
It suits you well.
hehe
SHE USED TO LIKE DOING ACTIVE THINGS SHE WAS GOOD AT HUNTING RABBITS


?
HER FATHER, LORD FLAX, IS A SUCCESSFUL TRADER
ON TOP OF THE WORK, SOCIAL LIFE IS QUITE IMPORTANT

ATTENDING THE PARTIES ALONE HAD A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON HER FATHER'S REPUTATION..
I'M SORRY FOR ALWAYS MAKING YOU WORRY..
MOTHER.. HOW ARE YOU FEELING TODAY?
ANISE..
I'M FINE
HIS WIFE SHOULD HAVE ATTENDED THE PARTIES. HOWEVER, SHE WAS VERY UNWELL AND HAD TO STAY IN BED.
MOTHER..
I'M SURE I'LL FEEL WELL AGAIN WHEN THE FLOWERS IN THE GARDEN BLOOM.
SO THAT HER FATHER WOULDN'T BE LAUGHED AT BY HIS BUSINESS PARTNERS
AND HER MOTHER DIDN'T HAVE TO ATTEND THE PARTIES
THAT'S WHY SHE STARTED GOING WITH HER FATHER

WEAPONS ARE NECESSARY IN BATTLE, RIGHT?
I SEE...
SHE'S A GOOD GIRL.
バターン
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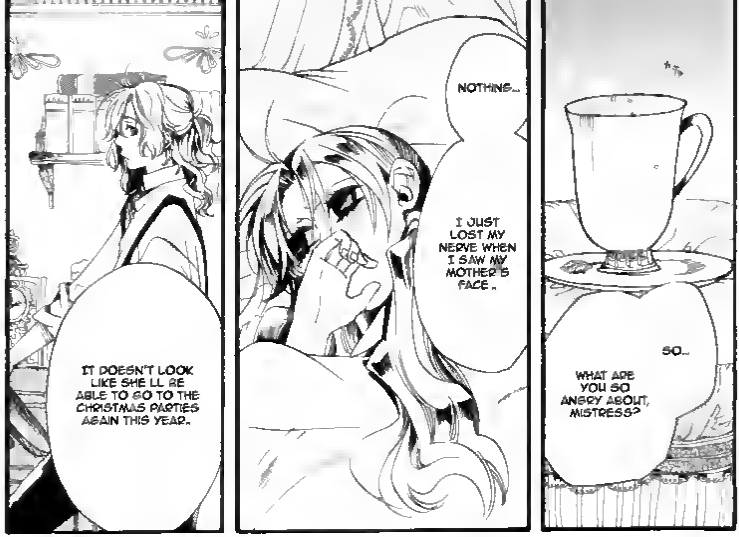
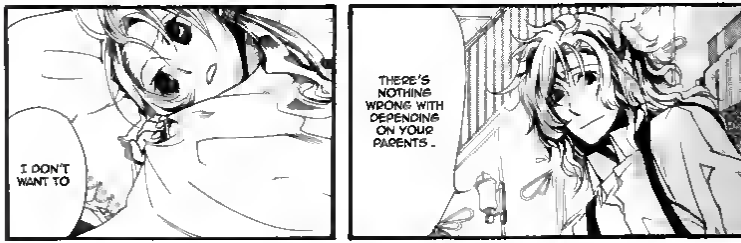
MISTRESS!
WELCOME HOME!!
I'M GOING TO BED!
AH MISTRESS?!
WHAT ABOUT DINNER?!
MISTRESS?!
HOLLY
THE HOUSE WHERE HER MOTHER RESTS IS FAR FROM HERE
PLEASE BRING THE MISTRESS SOME MILK TEA.
SHE MUST BE COLD
WHERE DID SHE GO?

WHAT? I DON'T NEED ANY FOOD..
KNOCK KNOCK
I'VE GOT SOME MAPLE SCONES TOO
CHINK
THAT'S NOT IT I'VE BROUGHT THE CHEF'S SPECIAL, MILK TEA WITH CHOCOLATE LIQUEUR
ISN'T NOT WASTING FOOD A CUSTOM IN THE NORTH?
I'LL JUST HAVE TO GET WAL TO EAT THEM, EVEN THOUGH HE DOESN'T LIKE SWEET THINGS.
I DON'T NEED THAT EITHER!
WHAT IS IT, HOLLY? DON'T COME IN WITHOUT PERMISSION!
OH?
I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM...
WHEN HE EATS SWEET THINGS, HIS BODY TURNS PURPLE AND HE'S SICK FOR 3 WHOLE DAYS. BUT HE HAS TO EAT THIS...
FINE, I'LL EAT IT!


IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE'LL BE ABLE TO GO TO THE CHRISTMAS PARTIES AGAIN THIS YEAR..
NOTHING...
I JUST LOST MY NERVE WHEN I SAW MY MOTHER'S FACE..
SO...
WHAT ARE YOU SO ANGRY ABOUT, MISTRESS?


I DON'T WANT TO
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH DEPENDING ON YOUR PARENTS.

IT'LL SOON BECOME WEAK IF YOU STOP TRAINING,
AND EVEN A SMALL SHOCK WILL MAKE YOU BLEED
HURTING YOURSELF, REPEATING THIS STAND FINALLY, BECOMING STRONGER.
THE HEART IS LIKE PRACTICING HOW TO USE A BOW AND ARROW.

I DON'T WANT TO CRY ANYMORE
YOU'RE KIND AND STRONG
THAT'S ADMIRABLE
I'M TRYING SO HARD. I'VE FORGOTTEN HOW TO RELAX
KEEP TRYING
KEEP TRYING

I WANT TO GIVE YOU A REWARD.
HEY...ANISE, WHAT KIND OF THINGS DO YOU LIKE?
THAT'S RIGHT.
I DON'T HAVE MONEY, POWER OR SKILLS... BUT I CAN REWARD YOU...
A REWARD? EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE PENNILESS...
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I'VE HEARD A LOT OF THE THINGS YOU HATE,
HOW ABOUT THE THINGS YOU LIKE?
I WANT..
MOTHER..
I LIKE...
ANISE.
WHEN THE FLOWERS IN THE GARDEN BLOOM
I'M SURE THAT I'LL BE BETTER

A GARDEN FULL OF FLOWERS...
SWEETS OR FLOWERS...
IT DOESN'T MATTER...
ONLY THAT
IF I CAN BRING HAPPINESS TO YOU AND TAKE SADNESS FAR AWAY
WELL, THAT'LL BE SIMPLE
THEN THAT'S ALL

HMM...
MIS-TRESS!
MIS-TRESS!
HMM?
WHAT IS IT?
EVERY-ONE'S SO LOUD...
ANISE!
MOTHER!
AH!

HURRY, COME AND LOOK, ANISE!
THE GARDEN?
WHEN I WOKE UP TODAY, I WAS SUDDENLY ABLE TO MOVE MORE EASILY...
I WAS EVEN MORE SURPRISED WHEN I SAW THE GARDEN
IT WAS TOO MUCH FOR YOU TO COME HERE NOW
ANISE, I'M FINE
HEATHER!! WE'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU!
THAT IDIOT MUST HAVE FALLEN OFF THE SLEDGE AT SOME POINT!
CHAMOIS! FAUN!
I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
WHAT ARE THOSE STRANGE CLOTHES YOU'RE WEARING?

NO ONE RECOGNISES ME WHEN I'M NOT AN OLD MAN WITH A WHITE BEARD.
AFTER ALL,
I WORKED THERE TOO
I BORROWED THEM AT THE PLACE I WAS STAYING

EVERYONE SAYS THAT THE HOLLY LEAF SYMBOLISES THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS
BUT YOU SAID YOUR NAME WAS HOLLY GREEN. DIDN'T YOU? THEN THEY SHOULD UNDERSTAND.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! THANK YOU, SANTA CLAUS!
END

# 高山しのぶ

Shinobu Takayama

Congratulations on the publication of Arcana! I don't think it seemed like what would be expected from a butler story, but it was fun to draw a short story for once!

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Merry Christmas!